



**June 3, 2010**

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

There have been several developments over the past few weeks about which I think you'd want to know. The bail work group had its first meeting, the AP reports that most Puget Sound-area roads will be tolled in the next 10 years and there is a new tool the public can use to keep tabs on elected officials. I'll go into more detail about that later in this update.

## Bail work group update



As you know, I was recently appointed to the Bail Work Group created by [Senate Bill 6673](#). We had our first meeting this week and, as the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, I was elected as co-chair of the work group along with Senator Adam Kline, D-Seattle, who chairs the committee. I **proposed several bills last session which would have helped reform the bail industry in Washington, but Sen. Kline decided to instead create this work group to study the issue further.**

We're taking a hard look at the bail system in our state because the man who killed Lakewood Police Officers Mark Renninger, Tina Griswold, Greg Richards, and Ronald Owens was able to post a relatively low bail just days before he committed the murders. I expect we'll be recommending

numerous ways to reform Washington's bail industry before the beginning of the 2011 legislative session.

I'll keep you apprised of our progress as we move forward. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 6th, with subsequent meetings scheduled for September 8th and October 5th.

## Tolling plan could lead to a mileage tax

[You've heard me talk before](#) about what I believe to be the majority party's desire to eventually implement a mileage tax in Washington. Now I've learned that a 30-year plan approved last week by the Puget Sound Regional Council General Assembly calls for consideration of replacing the fuel tax with a **charge for miles traveled**.



The 30-year plan, called Transportation 2040, assumes that by 2020 all major roads and highways in the region will be fully or partially tolled. The plan foresees \$191 billion in road and transit projects in the four-county area with funding for only about \$125 billion, suggesting that half the shortfall could be made up with toll revenue.

This is just another example of government trying to find new ways to crawl into your pocket. In 2007, the Senate passed [Senate Bill 5803](#) which authorized the creation of a regional transportation commission (RTC) for King, Pierce and Snohomish counties with the authority to create funding through new taxes. I introduced an amendment that would have prevented the RTC from implementing a mileage tax, which would require the owner to place a transponder in his or her vehicle. Once every vehicle has a transponder, the government will be able to track the location and movement of our cars, and it's only a matter of time before they tax you the instant you start your car and move it. I was opposed to a mileage tax then, and **I'll continue to oppose the idea should it again come before the Legislature.**

## New tool helps citizens track legislators' records



## THE INFORMED VOTER GUIDE

The Evergreen Freedom Foundation has announced the release of a new tool to help citizens hold legislators accountable for their actions. The **Informed Voter Guide** reviews more than a dozen bills passed during the

2010 session on the state's most important issues and indicates how state representatives and senators voted on these key bills.

The only caveat I have with the voter guide is the "Big Spender" list of legislators who sponsor or co-sponsor bills that raise fees or taxes. In 2009 I supported [Senate Bill 6156](#); a bill proposed by one of my colleagues that would have, among other things, required state college students who already have enough credits to graduate with a degree in their course of study but have instead chosen to be "career students" to pay the full cost of their tuition rather than having some or all of it subsidized by taxpayers. If the EFF claims the cost to these students would be over 300 million, **the savings to taxpayers would equal that amount.**

These are not students who have taken five years to get a Bachelor's degree. These are students who already have enough credits to graduate with a degree and simply choose not to, since the state continues to pay for their education, food and housing. I think you would want me to support ideas that save taxpayers money by encouraging these career students to graduate and begin working in the real world.

Other than that, the goal of this non-partisan project is to educate citizens about who they elected and what decisions they made while they were there. You can download a PDF copy of the guide at [www.informedvoterguide.com](http://www.informedvoterguide.com).

### In closing...

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her.

You can always find information online by visiting my website at

[www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell](http://www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell).

As always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me at **102 Irv Newhouse Building, P.O. Box 40428, Olympia, WA 98504-0428.**



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Sincerely,

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